

#1309

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6407

INFO RUESHL/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY 65

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 71

RUFHAU/AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY 279

RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 679

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 2175

SUBJ: LOCALE FOR PHASE II OF SALT

REF: BERN 2173

1. SWISS HAVE JUST INFORMED US THAT

A. FEDERAL COUNCIL HAS APPROVED PROPOSAL TO MOVE SALT TO GENEVA;

B. SOVIET EMBASSY HAS MADE DEMARCHE TO GOS IDENTICAL TO OURS.

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2. SOVIET CHARGE THEN CALLED AT EMBASSY TO REPORT ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH THALMANN WHICH AGREES WITH ACCOUNT GIVEN FROM SWISS. SWISS EXPRESSED TO SOVS AS THEY HAD TO US THEIR CONCERN THAT IN US/SOVIET APPROACHES TO AUSTRIAN AND FINNISH GOVERNMENTS IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT DECISION TO MAKE GENEVA SITE FOR PHASE II TAKEN ENTIRELY AT US AND SOVIET INITIATIVES, AND THAT THIS POINT SHOULD ALSO BE MADE CLEARLY IN SUBSEQUENT PRESS COMMUNIQUE. SWISS ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR INTENTION, IN PARALLEL OR AFTER US/SOVIET PRESS STATEMENT, TO ISSUE THEIR OWN PRESS COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING THAT IN RESPONSE TO US/SOVIET DESIRE MOVE SALT TO GENEVA, FEDERAL COUNCIL HAD GIVEN ITS APPROVAL.

3. SWISS HAVE REITERATED TO US THEIR WISH TO SEE PROPOSED PRESS STATEMENT BEFORE RELEASE AND HAVE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US AND USSR WOULD INFORM FINNS AND AUSTRIANS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT UNDERSTANDABLE SWISS CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR RELATIONS WITH FINNS AND AUSTRIANS (LATTER BEING OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO SWISS) BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN APPROACHES TO GOA AND GOF AND IN LANGUAGE OF PRESS RELEASE. WE RECOMMEND FURTHER THAT WE SHOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO SWISS DESIRE TO SEE TEXT OF PROPOSED RELEASE. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT RPT NOT SUGGEST THAT SWISS BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO PROPOSE CHANGES IN LANGUAGE UNLESS THEY HAVE MAJOR AND SERIOUS OBJECTIONS. THIRDLY, WE BELIEVE THAT WE NEED NOT ATTEMPT TO RESTRICT SWISS IN ANY WAY AS REGARDS THEIR OWN PROPOSED PRESS STATEMENT.

5. WE HAVE DISCUSSED ABOVE VIEWS WITH SOVIETS HERE. THEY ARE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT AND UNDERTOOK TO MAKE SAME RECOMMENDATIONS TO MOSCOW. GDS, DAVIS